Depot Town Rag

Volume 17, Number 5 *"All the news in one block in one month."*

100% FREE
Rag Content
May 1994

- Operation Lifesaver
- *Demetrius restored*
- **Market pavilion in place**
- Commercials made, a new name, safety on the street, heaven & hell

and other strictly local stuff. . . .

A Publication of the DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC. The Old Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

"Food for Thought" series marks EMU's opening here

Gary Evans, EMU communicators professor, will lecture on "The Human Side of Change," as the kick-off of the unique lecture series to be held at the University's new center at 32 East Cross Street in Depot Town. Neeta Delaney, director of Continuing Education Marketing & Special Programs says, "We're delighted that this first lecture in the series is already sold out, but we encourage those who are interested in attending the remaining four to register soon."

The new center, "although modest in size, will serve as a community base of operation for a wide range of offerings including travel-study programs, workshops, seminars, and short courses of varying length and covering a range of topics and disciplines that reflect the interests and needs of individuals in the area," says Delaney.

"The Ypsilanti/Ann Arbor area is one of the most highly educated metropolitan areas in the country and we believe this new initiative responds directcly to the unique lifelong learning needs of area residents."

Other programs in the series:

- *Juvenile Crime: The Prevention Agenda*, Jerome A. Strong, Tuesday, May 10, 6:30 p.m.
- *Men and Women: Communication Challenges*, Dr. Gary Evans, Tuesday, May 17, 6:30 p.m.
- *Media, Crime and Violence*, Dr. Gregg Barak, Tuesday, May 24, 6:30 p.m.
- *Rebuilding Our Cities: What Works, What Doesn't?* Dr. Laura Reese and Dr. Joseph Ohren, Tuesday, June 7, 6:30 p.m.

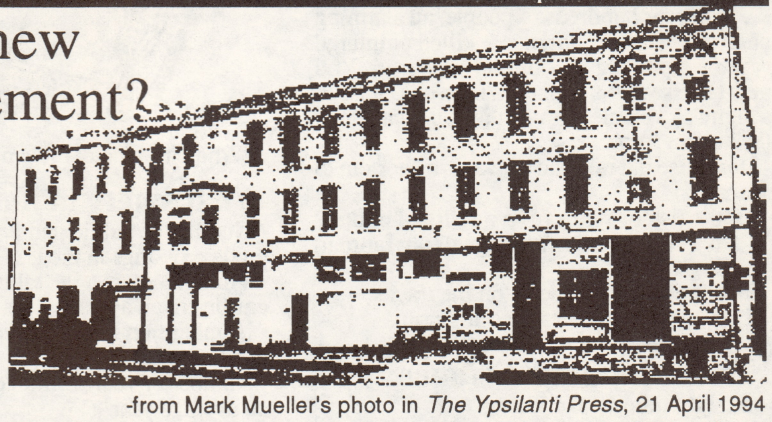
For information on the series, call 487-0407 or write EMU's Continuing Education Division at 304 Goodison Hall.

Caboose looking better

After languishing as a repository of 'treasures' for nearly two years, Engine Clubbers, DDA members and DTA officers have managed to clean out the old Caboose enough that meetings can once again be held there. Look for the monthly DTA meetings to reappear there on the third Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

Under new management?

"The condition of the building is a slap in the face to those business owners who have been improving their properties."
- City Council's Barry LaRue to *The Ypsilanti Press*



-from Mark Mueller's photo in *The Ypsilanti Press*, 21 April 1994

It must be spring. There was yet another picture of the big anchor building on North River Street on the front page of our local daily with reports of threats about the owner taking care of it or the City would do it for him and send him the bill with his taxes.

Typically the long focus of folks arriving from the West, the venerable greenish/grayish structure draws comment from every newcomer to the block - and a barrage of questions regarding the standards of upkeep and equity through the City's Building Department.

According to the report, the City's Historic District Commission thinks it can now enforce State standards due to the concept of a property being "demolished by neglect." It's certainly in a position where the progress can be watched and measured daily.

The building was made from bricks of The Great Northern Hotel which stood in the way of the development of the Michigan Central Railroad.

Plans under way for August's Heritage Fest

At April's DTA meeting merchants made it clear they do not favor either a music or beer tent blocking their facades for Festival - but they did pledge to serve on a committee to propose and implement an alternative plan for street activities.

"If we stay on the plaza (by the Freighthouse), we're on our own which means a $9000 to $10,000 risk - which is less than the annual $13,000 risk we traditionally take," DTA president, Judi Monaghan, said.

WEMU is interested in co-hosting an event, but the usual questions remain about who will front the cash for the cost of liquor liability insurance and musicians. DTA's events chair, Carolyn McKeever, says she hopes there will be plenty of volunteers for a street event. "It should really bring the activity into the center of things with a new location," she indicated.

Several merchants at an April 12 meeting favored having an outside antique promoter host a show in the middle of the street, but it is still unclear who would be responsible for creating this. There was much agreement that a street antique show would be an appropriate item for the block that weekend.

Merchants initiate TV promotions

TV spot commericals promoting Depot Town will be aimed at cable viewers in Ann Arbor, Canton, and Northville by June following marketing strategies set up last month by district merchants. Promotional themes, beautification and advertising were the focus for several meetings of business owners and managers during the past month. Newspaper coverage and more involvement on the part of business owners and employees seem to be the biggest turn-around in the block's promotion in recent months.

Dave French brought the proposal to April's DTA meeting for support for the $1400 production expense for the cable spots and Sandee French and Sandy Hoag will manage the rest of the project up to a $4000 total supported by neighborhood businesses. All district businesses are encouraged to support their plan for the good of the block.

"I want to thank those establishments and individuals who could make it," said Sandy Hoag of Remington-Walker. "I was really encouraged by the attendance that so many people care about marketing Depot Town."

Depot Town joins Operation Lifesaver to stress railroad grade crossing safety

Our April issue stressed 'Safety at the Crossing." Next month there's a test: "Can you make the grade?"

OPERATION LIFESAVER

It's not a playground

Highway motorists are not the only victims . . . each year hundreds of people, an alarming number of them children, are killed or injured while trespassing on railroad property. You may have seen the damage a train can cause to a highway vehicle, just think what it can do to the human form.

Don't use the railroad tracks as a shortcut to school.

Don't fish or swim from a railroad bridge.

Do obey all warning signals at railroad crossings.

Don't place any objects on the tracks.

Don't throw stones at passing trains.

Train stopping distance:

Freight train with 150 cars
at 30 mph = 2/3 mile
at 50 pmh = 1 1/2 miles

Some tips to live by

Don't get boxed in

Stalled? Get out fast. Keep moving - don't stop once you've started across. Don't get boxed in.

If your car stalls or becomes hung up on a crossing, get yourself and your passengers out and away from the tracks immediately.

Don't start across the tracks unless you know you can make it all the way across. Once you've started, don't stop or try to back up.

Make sure traffic ahead will not stop and box you in on a crossing. If it does happen, get out fast. Gates won't stop you, but a halt in highway traffic might.

Use Extra caution when driving at night or in bad weather

Driving a night or in bad weather requries special attention. Don't overdrive your headlights or drive too fast for conditions. You might suddenly see a train going over a crossing when you are too close to stop.

Any time is train time

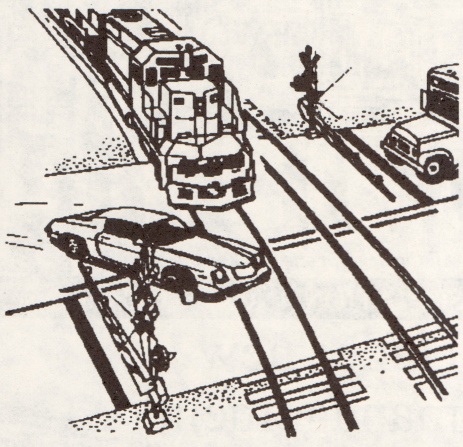
You might think that trains run on tracks only at certain times of day. Trains can move on any track in either direction at any time. Never assume anything at a crossing.

Watch out for the second track

At crossings with more than one track, use extra caution - one train can hide another. Be sure all tracks are clear before you cross. Never cross while flasher lights are still operating.

Don't race the train

Maybe you can beat the train to a crossing. Then again, maybe you can't. You might even be dead wrong. Remember, even if it's a tie at a railroad crossing, you lose!



When it's a tie at the crossing, you lose!

What safety in numbers?

- Number of public and private rail-highway grade crossings in the U.S. 300,000
- Number of people killed in vehicle-train crashes in an average year 1500
- Number hurt seriously enough to need medical attention 2300
- Number of vehicle-train crashes in an average year 5800

Why so many crashes?

Mostly because drivers pay little or no attention to the hazards at rail/highway grade crossings. They pay no attention because they cross the tracks day after day without seeing a single train. So the advance warning signs and the X on the crossbuck post become just a part of the scenery — familiar, unalarming.

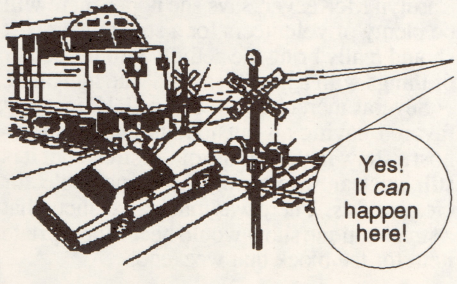
And then one day there's a train!

In more than 50% of the crashes, the drivers actually disregarded the flashing red lights or gates that warned of an approaching train. They simply failed to follow the basic, common sense rules: Look! Listen! Live!

Can you make the grade?

Most drivers who get their experience in the school of hard knocks end up learning a thing or two at the expense of a few bruises and bent fenders. But the guy who flunks on rail/highway grade crossings may not be around to get any diploma of experience. Frequently a flunk is fatal!

This Rail/Highway Grade Crossing Course isn't really so tough. You don't need to do a lot of boning up — just use some common safety sense. You can get a passing grade for life by being right. But miss one in a real situation and you lose.



Dateline: Depot Town:

A Neighborhood Forgotten by Time (and Life and Newsweek)

A new name for the district's oldest, most venerable venue

'Renewed Interest' will be the new name for Judy and Roger Julie's antique shop in June. Jan Gower remains with them in the former Cross Street Antiques business, however.

They're excited about the name change and are taking over new responsiblities in the antique business which boasts dozens of consignment displays on both levels of the shop.

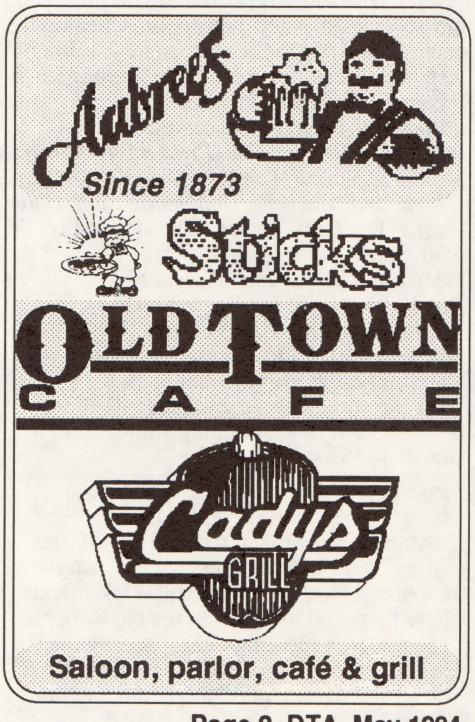
Judy told of the name change at April's DTA meeting and expressed renewed optimism and enthusiasm for the antiques business in the district. Jan continues with the couple, but the Julies seem to have moved into the front parlor in recent months.

All agree - the new name is delightfully memorable and appropriate.

The 'Heartbeat' continues:

Chevy-Geo-Metro will conduct a photo shoot in front of Aubree's Saloon this month. Watch for General Motors to bring their own wrought iron café tables and then park their cars in front of that 1870's railroad saloon - for nation-wide brochure pix which tout their product in these new-found 'good old days.'

On the inside, there was another shoot going on at the end of April. A Bud Lite commercial was created - complete with two three-ton trucks, 25 actors and an Ann Arbor casting call. "Only the regulars will know it was at Aubree's when they see it on TV," says Sandee French, "but it'll sure be a pretty commercial."



Book Review: We're in the Almanac

Awesome Almanac - Michigan [$12.95 at local bookstores]
A Treasury of Facts and Fictions, Celebrities and Celebrations, and the Weird and Wonderful!

Ypsiphiles will thrill at the local inclusions in B&B Publishing's new book created by Jean F. Blashfield, compiled and written by Annette Newcomb. Their first page of copy clearly indicates Our Town's role in the development of the state under **The Wolverine State:** "It's hard to understand how Michigan became known as the Wolverine State when, as far as experts can tell, the feisty animals never even lived there! However, legend has it that settlers heading west between Dearborn and Ypsilanti traveled the Great Sauk Trail. Today it's known as Michigan Avenue. It was there that Conrad 'Old Coon' Ten Eyck's Tavern stood. Legend says the state's nickname was born there.

"As tired settlers arrived at the tavern, Old Coon would greet them in person, then shout to his wife, 'Sally, put on some more wolf steaks!' The wolf steaks may have been more of a joke than anything else — a way for Old Coon to give the greenhorns a hard time. One day a young guest asked if she had really just eaten wolf steak. Old Coon assured her she had, and the young guest asked, 'Then I suppose I am a wolverine?' Old Coon said she was and would be from that day forward. The name stuck and settlers began calling themselves Wolverines!"

In a section called **Land of the Great Lakes**, the state's winners of the Medal of Honor are reacalled, listing Ypsilanti's World War II hero, Pfc. William H. Thomas, who was killed in action.

Labor union steps are recounted in **Taking Care of Business** with this inclusion enumerating **Power of the People:** "The first labor organization in Michigan was the Detroit Mechanics' Society, formed in 1818 and incorporated in 1820. So wide-spread did labor organizations quickly become that even Ypsilanti, with a poplulation of only 240, had one in 1830!"

Further into the **Business** section is a series of items under **It's Their Business:** ". . . Domino's Pizza is as familiar to fast-food fans as those [McDonald's] arches. The company was founded by Thomas S. Monaghan and his brother, James, in 1960. They bought DomiNicks pizza store in Ypsilanti for just $900. Later James traded his half of the business to Tom for a Volkswagen Beetle! Tom opened his first franchise store in Ypsilanti in 1967. Today there are 5,500 pizza stores in the nation with 31 international markets."

In the book's final portion, a calendar lists historical items in **Michigan Day by Day**. Ypsilanti places in four of the 352 entries:

• February 6 "Author/educator Walter Boughton Pitkin born 1878 in Ypsilanti."

• May 17 "Evangelist Carl McIntire born 1906 in Ypsilanti."

• August 14 "22-cent lacemaking stamp issued at Ypsilanti 1987."

• November 30 "Telegraph was used for first time in Michigan, between Detroit and Ypsilanti 1847."

This same team of Blashfield and Newcomb has already created similar *Awesome Almanacs* for Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Minnesota, and is currently preparing works on Ohio, Florida, Massachusetts, California, and Arizona. They must not be residents of Michigan, however; they note that Mackinac Island can be reached by either a ferry boat *or the Mackinac Bridge* - and that Henry Ford built a mansion in Dearborn which he called *Fairland*!

Oh, well. If the inclusions on Ypsilanti are any indication of the book's scholarship and accuracy, any true 'Wolverine' can overlook these items and find a copy of their own.

Upstairs 'heaven' to A2 *Hell*

Bartender Christine Marshall took a lot of her regulars to the loft over the Sidetrack Bar & Grill and rehearsed Robert Anton Wilson's play, *Wilhelm Reich in Hell*, for several hilarious rehearsals. Dave French took over as producer and they presented their circus of phsychodrama mayhem at Ann Arbor's Performance Network last month

The work used black humor to make its scary point as it reviews the triumphs and defeats of Reich's controversial take-over of Sigmund Freud's views of humanity and what makes us sane or insane, good or evil.

"We want to convince people that there's plenty of fun and safe night life in Ypsilanti, too," says Marshall. She and French hope to see future performances happening right here in the block soon. They're following a long and respected tradition in a town that's had community theater since the days of the earliest mills on the Huron River.

They hope to go up in the Freighthouse for the next undertaking.

Ypsilanti's FARMERS' MARKET

5/7 Mothers Day
Craft Show
gifts, foods, flowers
5/14 Annual Flower Day
plants, baskets, perennials
5/21 Youth Sales Day
used books, games, toys
5/29 Sale Day for Plants
baskets, flats, planters, herbs, perennials

Wednesday and Saturday
Open all year in the railroad freighthouse
For information: 483-1480

Announcing:

A community project to fund and build a permanent shelter and stall covering at the Farmers' Market

The framework is in place for the newest addition to the Ypsilanti Farmers' Market at the historic Freighthouse in Depot Town. The permanent market structure will:

• Provide farmer vendors and shoppers with shelter from rain and sun.

• Allow Ypsilanti's Market to offer covered outdoor stalls as do other neighboring community markets.

• Add a colorful, festive, canopy-covered outdoor marketplace to the market.

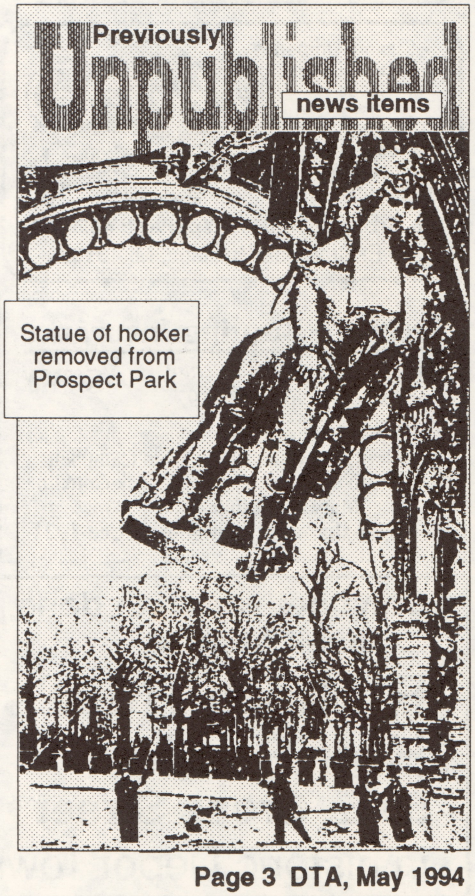
• Be available for a variety of other community activities anduses.

Ypsilanti Farmers' Market manager, Gary Urick, announces that donations are now being accepted from individuals, community groups, businesses, and civic organizations and that he is available with information on helping with this exciting community project.

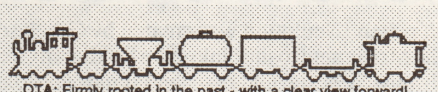
Check donations may be made at the Farmers' Market or mailed to the City of Ypsilanti, 1 South Huron, Ypsilanti MI, 48197.

Private, non-profit, civic group, or business donations of $225 or more, entitltes the contributor to one free evenings use of the Freighthouse for a special event or reception. (Note: Insurance requirements remain in effect. This offer reflects a waiver of the standard $225 rental fee, only.)

All aboard -
- for a new Market look in Depot Town!



Depot Town Association, Inc., 21 April 1994


DTA: Firmly rooted in the past - with a clear view forward!

Thirty -two attended and Judi Monaghan chaired the meeting at The Daily Grind.

• **Minor corrections** to the previous month's minutes as published.

• **Neeta Delaney, director of EMU's new center** in Depot Town introduced herself, telling of the "Food for Thought" series (page one), a Frog Island tie-in, 30-40 short courses beginning in September, and a unique travel study. A great start for our newest member!

• **$6753 in the treasury.** Many business owners paid their annual dues. Clarification on types of membership: Regular $25 (voting) for businesses and property owners, Associate $10 for interesteds who wish to be on the monthly mailing list, $100 Life (patron) for non-voters who wish to be interested for a really long time. Correct the membership list to reflect that Gerry French, our founding president, is a Lifetime member of the DTA. (It was great to have Gerry back at the monthly meeting.)

• ***Rag* Report:** Much local news from merchants' groups this month. Editor hyped grade crossing safety again - *for the locals.* DTA has joined Operation Lifesaver in this public safety effort.

• **Caboose:** No wedding in May, but it's clean again. Inquire at Esquire about new carpeting. Need better security on windows.

• **Farmers' Market Advisory:** Dave French will be spokesperson to relate concerns about moveable coolers and other equipment, will encourage market expansion within the purview of the Master Plan, and will examine fair-share actual-usage of utilities in that facility.

• **Events: Frog Island Festival** is June 24, 25, 26 with ad copy due by May 1 for the 32-page program book. Business on the block have been contacted by Paul Fetters of River Artworks. The program is a fund-raiser for *The Rag*. All are encouraged to exploit the green/frog/jazz theme for June. A mid-week circus will follow the Frog Island event.

Heritage Festival's Linda Bowen contributed to the discussion of street activity. Merchants do not favor a big tent or bar at the east end, but will work with DTA and Heritage Fest to replicate the success of last year's street stage.

• Business owners have accepted the responsibility of **spring planting** in tubs and beds nearest their addresses and encourage others to join in the fun by May 21.

• **Merchants' committee proposes a cable TV promotion** aimed at Ann Arbor, Canton, and Northville costing $4000, total. DTA will pay the $1400 production cost and Sandee French and Sandy Hoag will share the responsibility for follow-ups with their neighbors.

• All are invited to 9 a.m. Saturday morning sessions at downtown's Phoenix Building regarding the exciting development of the **Riverside Performance Center** proposed for the Masonic Temple. A June fund-raiser will connect with the Frog Island Fest theme.

• **Best Yet Award** to the Farmers' Market's beautiful new pavilion.

• **The Golden Goose Award** to the two tots who climbed on the pavilion and bent one of the ridge poles.

• **Next meeting:** 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 19 May 1994 at The Old Caboose.

Strictly local stuff:
May 1994

Depot Towners are invited to participate in any or all of the following activities for the good of this old commercial district:

• **D'town Development Authority**
8 a.m. Wednesdays
at The Daily Grind

• **Depot Town Association**
Monthly Meeting
7:30 p.m., Thursday, 5/19
The Old Caboose

• **Depot Town Antique Engine Club**
7:30 pm Thursday , 5/26
at the Freighthouse Coffeeshop

THE DEPOT TOWN RAG

A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc. a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate. -Tom Dodd, editor

The Depot Town Association, Inc.
Judi D. Monaghan, president
c/o The Old Caboose
400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

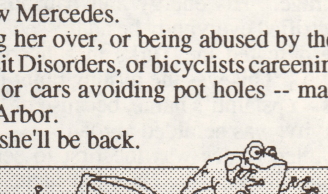
"Is it safe down here?" ...asked a new customer the other day as she rigged a locking device onto the steering wheel of her new Mercedes.

If she was worried about skateboarders running her over, or being abused by the Nazis' Spring Rally, or the Hash Bash for Attention Deficit Disorders, or bicyclists careening down the sidewalks, or the Annual Gridlock Art Fair, or cars avoiding pot holes -- maybe she thought she was next door-- in Ann's Awesome Arbor.

But now she's discovered the real 'Ypsi' -- and she'll be back.

Whose job is it?

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that - because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it. Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.



DTA, The Rag, and The Ark thank all who placed ads in the June 24, 25, 26 Frog Island Festival program book -- and encourage Depot Towners to hype the green/frog/jazz theme for their June promotions on the block!

Guarantee Boosting this block since 1976

Depot Town Association annual dues:
- ☐ $25 Regular voting member (business/owner)
- ☐ $10 Associate Member (observer)
- ☐ $100 Life Member (supporter)
- ✂ Clip and send check to

"Depot Town Association"
c/o The Old Caboose,
400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

DTA

You can rent
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. . . for your party, dinner, or meeting . . .
($25 + deposit) Call 483-4256

May is National Historic Preservation month

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• Espresso
• Flavored Coffee
• Pastries
• Muffins
• Cocoa-cino
• Scones
• Cheesecake
• Bottled Water
21 East Cross Street 482-0440
Winter hours: Sun 9-7, M-T 7-7, F 7-9, Sat 8:30-9

A facelift for Our Town's namesake

The General Demetrius Ypsilanti Sculpture was created by Greek sculptor Christopher Nastos, the artist responsible for the Monument to the Unknown Soldier in Greece. The sculpture consists of a white Vermont marble bust, pedestal and base, and stands approximately 13 feet high. It was given to the City of Ypsilanti by the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association on August 29, 1928

The sculpture, located in front of the Ypsilanti Water Tower, depicts General Demetrius Ypsilanti (1793-1832), a leader in the Greek War of Independence. The newly independent United States, viewing Greece as the ancestor of its own democratic traditions, identified with the Greek struggle and General Ypsilanti's heroic exploits during the war brought him to the attention of Judge Augustus B. Woodward. As a result, Judge Woodward proposed that the new village, founded in 1823 on the banks of the Huron River, be named Ypsilanti, in honor of the Greek hero.

"...the name of Ypsilanti was on all lips in this country..."

A few notes on the sculpture

Created by Greek sculptor Chistopher Nastos, the artist responsible for the Monument to the Unknown Soldier in Greece, this larger than life-size bust on top of a tall marble pillar was given to the City of Ypsilanti on August 19, 1928, by the Order of Ahepa, a society of Greek-Americans. The presentation was part of the society's national convention which was held in Detroit. Two thousand Greek-Americans, including the Greek Minister to the United States and the Archibishop of the Greek Orthodox Church, took the Interurban from Detroit to Ypsilanti to witness Governor Green of Michigan, President McKinney of Michigan State Normal College, and Ypsilanti Mayor Matthew Max accept the gift.

The bust depicts General Demetrius Ypsialnti (1793-1832), a Greek from Constantinople. General (also Prince) Ypsilanti was born into a military family that had served the Turkish Empire and was, in 1823, helping lead the revolt against the Turks.

Although the war featured atrocities and massacres by both sides, the United States, with its Christian heritage and its tendency toward seeing Greece as the ancestor to its own democratic traditions, quickly sided with the rebel Greeks.

Exploits like Ypsilanti's escape with his entire army from the besieged citadel of Argos brought him to the atteniton of Judge Woodward who suggested that the new village founded on the banks of the Huron River be named Ypsilanti, in honor of the Greek hero.

Demetrius Ypsilanti

As for the over-seeing of the restoration of the sculture itself, the City of Ypsilanti has established a special body named "The Demetrius Ypsilanti Sculpture Commission." Its members include City Councilmember Barry LaRue; Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Home Tour and 20th Celebration chair Peg DuFresne; Save Outdoor Sculpture! coordinator, Dr. Marshall McLennan of EMU; Henry Prebys and Donald Randazzo of Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village and Ypsilanti; and Ypsilanti Community & Economic Development director Jennifer Goulet.

Conservation of Artistic Stone Objects, Inc. (CASO-IMPEX) has been chosen to do the work of restoration. They are widely trusted in the Midwest for superior restoration of artistic and historic stone objects. CASO-IMPEX's conservators and technicians have more than 15 years experience in the conservation of outdoor/indoor artisitc works in the United States and Europe. The Commission has, in other words, chosen the finest craftsmen to work on the sculpture — and the Heritage Foundation approves. We hope the public will agree and support the project in whatever way it can, including attendance at the 20th Anniversary celebration.

A few notes on Our Namesake, Demetrius Ypsilanti. . .

[*Heritage News*, the newsletter of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, March 1994]

From the Archives of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum come the following notes on our namesake, taken from *The Ypsilantian*, July 19, 1900, from a paper delivered before the Study Club by Miss Nora Campau Babbitt:

"Demetrius Ypsilanti, like his brother (Alexander — whose public conduct was, we're told, "contemptible"], was a revolutionist, but formed a contrast to him in military and moral conduct, though somewhat inferior to him in personal accomplishments. His stature was small, his appearance insignificant; his voice discordant, his manner awkward, and his health weak; yet, with these physical defects he had manly sentiments, undaunted courage, and sincere patriotism. His principles were those of a gentleman . . .

"Demetrius Ypsilanti gained the esteem of his countrymen by displaying unwonted activitity, added to his usual courage. His energy and patriotism electrified everybody he addressed . . . (He defeated the Turks in a horrific battle.] This was the turning point for the Greeks. Ypslalnti's name, because of his manly activity, was heralded abroad.

"The United States was the first to send sympathy to Greece . . . Thus the name of Ypsilanti was on all lips in this country, and the site which in 1807 was only a small trading-post, received, in 1924, the name Ypsilanti, in honor of the hero . . . "

You may also wish to know that there are still members of the Ypsilanti family alive today. For example, in the August 1992 issue of *Architectural Digest* you may read about two New Yorkers who decided to restore a house on the Greek island of Patmos. They weren't sure about the project: "Then we met Tomas Ypsilantis, a master builder, a mason and a descendant of General Ypsilantis, the hero of the War of Greek Independence," one said. "When he appeared, we saw a very dignified man of great charm who was clearly the leading citizen of Chora, the capital of Patmos. . .Ypsilantis proved to be a magnificent craftsman and supervisor, and his crew was up to his rigorous standards." So if you are an Ypsilanti preservationist *and* a purist, you could always call upon Tomas Ypsilantis on the island of Patmos to get the job done by a descendant of our namesake!

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation celebrates 20th anniversary with restoration of sculpture

[Heritage News, March 1994]

1994 marks the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and promoting Ypsilanti's wealth of historic architecture. The Foundation will mark this occasion with a 20th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, May 14, 1994, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., at the Huron Golf Club. May 14th was chosen as the date for the event because it is the close of Preservation Week in 1994.

In addition to celebrating this important milestone in the history of the Foundation, the 20th Anniversary Celebration will be a fundraiser to help in the restoration of the General Demetrius Ypsilanti Sculpture. It will also be an opportunity to recognize all those individuals and organizations whose efforts over the last 20 years have contributed to the immeasurable benefits which historic preservation has brought to the Ypsilanti community.

Tickets for the May 14 gala celebration are $30.00 per person; invitations will be mailed in early April. For information on tickets, contact Lisa Walters at 485-3683 or Penny Schreiber at 483-5688.

You can help YHF restore Demetrius' bust at water tower

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation's 20th anniversary celebration on May 14 will be a benefit to restore the General's sculpture. Tickets to the black-tie-optional event at the Huron Golf Club are $30. [Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation, 102 North Wallace Blvd, Ypsilanti MI 48197.]

The event will also its founding members - Jane Bird Schmiedeke and Nathalie Edmunds for their many contributions and continuing dedication over the past 20 years "to the cause of historic preservation in the Ypsilanti community."

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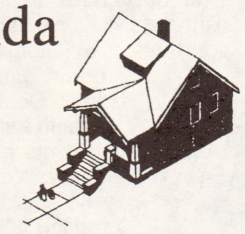
A Depot Town SAMPLER

What kinda building izzat, anyway?



Not many folks down in Depot Town paid any attention to the 'style' of their building back in 'the old days' but, when the historic preservation ethic looked like it might help save these old brick edifices, some of the owners and residents were surprised to find these high-ceilinged barns were actually related to the Renaissance temples of Italy!

Almost too hoity-toity for the locals, we avoided calling them 'Italianate,' slid them under the generic term 'Victorian,' and seemed to get away with it. But that may have made it too easy for others.

With the obvious great success of the economic and cultural rebound of Ypsilanti's railroad district comes the fact that everybody else wants to get in on the act. After a decade of describing houses as 'in historic Depot Town,' some realtors like to add fancy stylistic names to every building on their multi-list. The house above, for example, is too often called 'Cape Cod' in realtors' ads and actual Bungalows are often ignored.

Sure, we all say 'Ypsi' - and we correct Ann Arborites when *they* say it - but hearing the word 're-la-tor' in radio and TV ads is too much for our Nouveau Victorian sensibilities. Next month's *Rag* will feature a vocabulary lesson with illustrated examples. Readers are encouraged to submit their favorite local mispronunciations (With corrections, please! Sometimes we can't tell the difference!) to the caboose door's mail slot.

Clip and send to the Caboose:

Here's a local mispronunciation I've noticed lately and think we should all clean up our act a little bit:

_____

_____

X signature optional

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